

## Message Text

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12

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00

PA-03 RSC-01 USIA-12 PRS-01 AID-20 EB-11 COME-00

TRSE-00 FAA-00 RSR-01 /103 W  
----- 128925

R 021700 Z JUL 73 ZDK  
FM AMEMBASSY DAKAR  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3777  
INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN  
AMEMBASSY BANGUI  
AMEMBASSY COTONOU  
AMEMBASSY FORT LAMY  
AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE  
AMEMBASSY LOME  
AMEMBASSY NIAMEY  
AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT  
AMEMBASSY OUAGADOUGOU  
AMEMBASSY PARIS  
AMCONSUL CASABLANCA

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EO 11652 N/ A

TAGS: ETRN PFOR SG IV

SUBJ: AIR AFRIQUE, SENEGAL, IVORY COAST

REF: ABIDJAN 4681

1. PRIME MINISTER DIOUF RETURNED TO SENEGAL JUNE 30. MONDAY'S  
LE SOLEIL CARRIED FUZZY LEAD STORY BY EDITOR  
BARA DIOUF UNDER HEAD QTE ABDOU DIOUF ON HIS RETURN FROM ABIDJAN:  
MISSION ACCOMPLISHED. UNQTE.

2. STORY OPENS WITH SALUTE TO VALUE PERSONAL DIPLOMACY.  
THUS MORE OR LESS CONTRADICTIONARY RUMORS BEGAN TO CIRCULATE ABOUT  
THE COUNCIL OF ADMINISTRATION OF AIR AFRIQUE. SENGHOR, FAITHFUL  
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TO HIS POLICY OF DIALOG, DECIDED TO CLARIFY A CONFUSED SITUATION WHICH, ACCORDING TO UNINFORMED AGENCY DESPATCHES BECAME HOURLY MORE MYSTERIOUS. THIS WAS REASON FOR PRIMIN' S PRECIPITOUS FRIDAY DEPARTURE.

3. THE IMPORTANCE OF THE IVORIAN DELEGATION AT YAMOUSSOUKRO, INCLUDING THOSE MENTIONED IN REFTEL, PROVED THAT THE MEETING WAS OF GREATER IMPORTANCE THAN SPECULATIONS ABOUT AIR AFRIQUE LED ONE TO BELIEVE. FOR IF AIR AFRIQUE WAS THE PRETEXT, THE GAME WAS SOMETHING ELSE. SO SAID ABDOU DIOUF IN ANSWERING PRESS QUESTIONS THERE.

4. BARA DIOUF CITES RUMORS THAT SENEGAL WAS THREATENING TO BACK OUT OF AIR AFRIQUE OR THE IVORY COAST FROM THE CEAQ AND THE MONETARY UNION. THIS MADE THE MATTER APPEAR SUFFICIENTLY SERIOUS AS TO JEOPARDIZE THE WORK OF SENEGAL AND IVORY COAST TOGETHER ON AMBITIOUS PROJECTS FOR WEST AFRICA. ALL THESE PROBLEMS WERE EXAMINED IN RENEWED CONFIDENCE, WHICH IS MORE IMPORTANT THAN THE CHOICE OF A DIRECTOR FOR AIR AFRIQUE.

5. THE RECEPTION AT YAMOUSSOUKRO WAS FRATERNAL, THE CONVERSATIONS FILLED WITH FRIENDSHIP. SO IT WAS NOT SURPRISING THAT MINSUNDERSTANDINGS WERE QUICKLY OVERCOME. NOW THAT SPIRITS ARE NO LONGER BEING EXCITED BY FALSE PROBLEMS, THE DAYS TO COME WILL SEE ALL RETURN TO ORDER, QTE BOTH THE AIR AFRIQUE AFFAIR AND THE REST UNQTE.

6. COMMENT: WE ARE NOT SURE OF THE STATE OF PLAY EITHER, OTHER THAN TO GET THE IMPRESSION THE AFFAIR IS FAR FROM STTLED. CLARK

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NNNNMAFVVZCZ

\*\*\* Current Handling Restrictions \*\*\* n/a

\*\*\* Current Classification \*\*\* LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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**TAGS:** ETRN, PFOR, IV, SG  
**To:** STATE INFO ABIDJAN  
BANGUI  
CASABLANCA  
MULTIPLE  
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